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Hitch-hiker riding high

ONE night in Innsbruck in 1971, 18-year-old Douglas Adams lay down in a field, looked at the stars and thought "somebody ought to write a hitch-hiker's guide to the galaxy". Six years later he did, and created a worldwide phenomenon.

Don't Panic: The Official Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy Companion (published by Titan, £3.95) traces the growth of the Hitch-Hiker industry.

Author Neil Gaiman tells us that from a radio series it went on to be a mega-selling book, a TV series, a computer game, a towel etc and Adams is currently working on adapting it for something called an Inter-Active Compact Disc.

But plans for a film were abandoned after Douglas met Ghostbusters director Ivan Reitman. He complained that Reitman simply wanted "Star Wars with jokes".

Prior to the success of Hitch-Hiker, Adams wrote two scripts for Dr Who, and the book includes the script of one which was never screened.

Titled Dr Who and The Krikkitmen, it opens with the Tardis landing in the members enclosure of Lords during the Ashes.

☐**Covent Garden piazza will be turned into a mini-America this Thursday at noon when British Airways and B-Cal hold a joint shindig to promote holidays to the States.**

There'll be a parade featuring a 100-foot tall Spiderman balloon, a band and drum majorettes, and St. Paul's church will be dressed up like a Gone With The Wind mansion.

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